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December 18, 1992

Hank D. Honeywell
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
301 So. Park, Drawer 10056
Helena, MT 59626

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ENVIROMENTAL BUREAU

Subject: F 24 - 2(5)56
Helmville Junction - East
(P.M.S. C#0921)

This is a request that this proposed project still qualifies as a Supplemental Categorical Exclusion. The original Categorical Exclusion for this proposed project was approved by the FHWA on August 25, 1988. A copy of that document and a Project Location Map are attached.

This proposed project has been reviewed for additional environmental issues due in part to revisions in its proposed Scope-of-Work. These revisions occurred following approval of a Revised Design Planning Report on June 9, 1989. Therefore, the "SCOPE" portion of the original Categorical Exclusion (pages 1 & 2) is revised as follows:

1. Surface width will be 28.0 feet throughout the overlay & widen portions;

2. A four-lane portion will be constructed between MilePosts (MP.'s) 62.459 and 63.458, and will be 52.0 feet wide;

3. No changes will be made in the horizontal alignment;

4. The left (northerly) ditch along fill slopes will use a 4:1 slope in a "v-bottom" design;

5. The right (southerly) fill slope will be as steep as 1:1 with guardrail to avoid/minimize encroaching the Blackfoot River;

6. Cut areas will have the 4:1 ditch slopes extended 15± ft. with 20± ft. wide/20:1 ditches for additional fill materials where needed; and

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Scope-of-Work changes (conclusion:)

7. The bridge over Arrastra Creek (MP. 57.916) will only have its guardrail upgraded with no other work necessary.

The additional environmental issues have been identified as follows:

Traffic Noise

A revised Traffic Noise Analysis was performed on this proposed project in mid-April, 1991, using updated traffic data. The hourly traffic noise equivalents, $L_{eq}(h)$, at level A in decibels (dB_A) do not show any significant increases above the previous amounts shown in the original Categorical Exclusion document (3rd paragraph/¶, page 5). Therefore, no significant traffic noise impacts will result from this proposed project.

Biological Resources

Information on biological resources was requested and received from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS), Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MDFW&P), and the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP).

The Helena National Forest (HNF) identified a concern with white-tailed deer, and noxious weeds on this portion of FAP 24 in their letter if April 20, 1992. The latter is Required under item #7 in the following **Mitigation** of impacts, and in Seeding. The deer issue has been included in the following *Recommended* **Mitigation** of impacts — see items 1.1 through 1.4, inclusive.

A **Biological Resources Report** was completed by the MDT Environmental & Hazardous Waste Bureau's (E&HWB's) Resource & Permitting Section on July 9. 1992. This **Report** identified various species of flora and fauna found in this proposed project's vicinity. This **Report** concluded that *No Significant Impacts* on any of these species will result from this proposed project.

Mitigation

The following measures are Required, or *Recommended* to minimize impacts on biological resources by the proposed road construction activities:

1. Required: Confine construction activities to the smallest area possible to complete the proposed project.

2. Required: Construction personnel shall not harass, harm, nor intentionally disturb wildlife.

Biological Resources
Mitigation of impacts (conclusion:)

3. Required: Filling of wetlands shall be prohibited in the N.W.¼ of Section 29, and the N.E.¼ of Section 30; T - 14 - N, R - 10 - W (MP.'s 65.7765 to 66.506); during the waterfowl and shorebird nesting season (April - July).

4. Required: "Riprap" placement shall be prohibited during the bull trout spawning season (September - November).

5. Required: Best Management Practices (siltation controls) shall be employed to prevent any turbidity and sedimentation problems related to the proposed road construction activities and "riprapping".

6. Required: Conduct "riprap" placement during low water periods, and not during the high water runoff season (May 1 - June 30).

7. Required: The contractor shall cooperate in the enforcement of the *Montana State Noxious Weed Law* (**MCA 7-22**) to prevent, control, or minimize the spread of noxious weeds along the proposed project.

1.1 Recommended: Construction activities should be minimized during the Winter and early Spring to reduce harassment of elk, deer, and bald eagle (November - March).

1.2 Recommended: Signing should be increased to notify users of major deer crossing areas.

1.3 Recommended: Clearing of understory vegetation within the Right-of-Way/Easements should reduce road kills by making the animals more visible.

1.4 Recommended: Seeding of construction-disturbed areas should be done with grasses/forbs that are unpalatable to elk and deer — this should prevent foraging along roadside areas (see Seeding, following).

Threatened/Endangered Species
The USF&WS also provided information on Federally-listed Threatened/ Endangered species which may be found in this proposed project's vicinity. This is in conformance with the requirements of *Section 7(a)* of the *Endangered Species Act* **(16 U.S.C. 1531 - 1543)**.

These include the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), and peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) which are both endangered raptor species in Montana. The **Biological Resources Report** also identified the endangered gray wolf (Canis lupus), and threatened grizzly bear (Ursus arctos horribilis) as occurring in this vicinity.

Removal of large trees will be avoided to minimize impacts on bald eagle habitat in accordance with the HNF's request in their letter of April 20, 1992. This HNF letter also identified the closest bald eagle nesting site as being on private land in the N.W.¼ of the N.W.¼ of Section 26; T - 14 - N, R - 9 - W. This location is 2.0± miles easterly of the (easterly) end of this proposed project at MP. 67.8±, and was also identified in the MNHP's data.

Mitigation
The following measures are required to ensure that impacts to bald eagles are minimized:

1B. Required: All relocated power lines shall be "raptor-proofed" in accordance with MDT Procedure Memorandum #208 - "Raptor Proofing".

2B. Required: The contractor shall contact an MDT biologist to assess the overall status of nesting bald eagles in the project area, prior to construction.

3B. Required: If bald eagle nests are discovered in the proposed project's area prior to or during construction, an MDT biologist shall be contacted immediately to ensure that no adverse impacts to nesting eagles occur.

4B. Required: The location of proposed construction-related activities, such as staging, batch plants, and borrow/gravel source activities within 1.0± mile of the Blackfoot River shall be subject to review by an MDT biologist.

Threatened/Endangered Species (**Mitigation** -conclusion:)

The following measure is required to ensure that impacts to gray wolves are minimized:

1G. Required: If evidence of wolf pack activity, such as a den or rendezvous site is located in the proposed project's area prior to or during construction, an MDT biologist shall be contacted immediately to ensure that no adverse impacts to wolves occur.

The **Biological Resources Report** concludes that this proposed project is not likely to adversely affect these Threatened/Endangered species with the preceding mitigation measures. The USF&WS concurred in these determinations in their letter of July 21, 1992.

Wetlands

A Wetlands Assessment of this proposed project's route was conducted by (former) MDOH biologists on August 20, 1990, using the Cooperative Wetlands Evaluation Procedure developed as a result of the Interagency Wetlands Group.

Numerous wetland sites were located along this portion of FAP 24 — the largest of these is located in the N.W.¼ of Section 29, and the N.E.¼ of Section 30, T - 14 - N, R - 10 - W. Approximately 9.07± acres of these wetlands will be filled as a result of the project.

Mitigation

The 9.07± acres of impacted wetlands will be mitigated on-site at the Blackfoot Waterfowl Production Area through a joint effort between MDFW&P, Ducks Unlimited, and the USF&WS. This Area is located approximately 8 miles east of Ovando, and is a part of the USF&WS Benton Lake Wetland Management District.

A **Wetlands Finding** on the Rogers Pass - Bonner Corridor was approved by the U.S. Army's Corps of Engineers on April 16, 1991. This proposed project's wetlands impacts and mitigation proposals are included in that **Finding** — a copy is included with this document.

U.S. Dept. of Transportation Act - *Section 4(f)*

As stated in the original Categorical Exclusion, the HNF has concurred that this proposed project has no "*Section 4(f)*" impacts on lands under their jurisdiction. This was reaffirmed in their letter of April 20, 1992.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) letter of April 20, 1992 stated that lands under their jurisdiction along this proposed project ". . . could be classified . . ." as *Section 4(f)* land. This classification applied only to lands designated and managed as multiple-use for recreation, or wildlife/waterfowl management, and under statute(s) providing for same. The BLM concurred that *Section 4(f)* does not apply to these lands in their letter of September 29, 1992.

The Montana Department of State Lands (MDSL) has jurisdiction over the Blackfoot River as a navigable stream along this proposed project. This jurisdiction applies under **MCA 70-16-201, 70-1-202, 77-1-202**, and **70-18-203** — and only between its low water marks. However, MDSL regards the MDFW&P as having management authority over recreational use of this river.

The MDFW&P stated that they have "no lands in the project area which might be affected" by this proposed project in their letter of November 5, 1985. Therefore, the provisions "*Section 4(f)*" (**49 U.S.C. 303**) do not apply to this proposed project.

Floodplains

The original Categorical Exclusion for this proposed project stated (in the 5th ¶ on page 5) that "There are no delineated floodplains within the limits of this proposed project." This is not the case, however, and a floodplain delineated under Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) criteria along the Blackfoot River is encroached by this proposed project. Powell County administers this floodplain for FEMA, and a permit for encroachment was approved on May 20, 1991.

The floodplain encroachments from this proposed project occur along the southerly (right) side of FAP 24 from MP.'s 59.277 to 59.315, and MP.'s 59.49± to 59.528. This proposed project will not promote or encourage development within this delineated floodplain, nor increase flood liability hazards from its construction. This proposed project is therefore considered to be in compliance with E.O. #11988.

Permits

Besides the FEMA Floodplain Development Permit described previously, this proposed project also requires the following permits:

This proposed project will be in compliance with both the *Montana Water Quality Act* for *Section 3(a)* authorizations, and the *Montana Stream Preservation Act* (**MCA 87-5-501** through **509**, inclusive):

A ***124SPA** Stream Protection Act* Permit was approved by the MDFW&P on March 9, 1992; and

A MEMORANDUM OF AUTHORIZATION & AGREEMENT (MAA) for this proposed project was also approved by the MDFW&P on July 28, 1992.

All work will also be in accordance with *Section 319* of the *Water Quality Act* of 1987 (**P.L. 100-4**). The control of water pollution for both specific and non-point sources will be as described in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (**P.L. 92-500**).

This proposed project will require a *Clean Water Act* (**33 U.S.C. 1251 - 1376**) - *Section 402*/Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit from the Montana Department of Health & Environmental Science's Water Quality Bureau (WQB).

A *Clean Water Act* (33 U.S.C. **1251 - 1376**) - *Section 404* permit from the U.S. Army - Corps of Engineers. This proposed project qualifies for a "Nationwide" permit under Paragraph 23 of *Section 404* as a Categorical Exclusion.

Erosion Control

An Erosion Control Plan for this proposed project will be submitted to the WQB to comply with their Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Regulations (ARM 16.20.314). Best Management Practices based on guidelines established in the MDT Highway Construction Standard Erosion Control Workplan will be used in the design of Plan. The objective is to minimize erosion of disturbed areas during and following construction of this proposed project.

Air Quality

This proposed project is located in an "unclassifiable" /attainment area of Montana for air quality under 40 CFR 81.327. As this type of project has no impact on regional emissions under the June 7, 1991 USDoT & EPA INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR THE CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS — Section 6.2 and its APPENDIX — a carbon monoxide (CO) analysis will not be needed. Therefore, this proposed project complies with the 1990 *Clean Air Act Amendments* (**23 U.S.C. 176**(c)) during "PHASE I" of the "INTERIM PERIOD".

Seeding

The **Seeding** Special Provisions for this proposed project are as follows:

SEEDING SPECIAL PROVISIONS

AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Area 1: Slopes 3:1 and flatter
Area 2: Slopes steeper than 3:1

SEEDBED PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

Kill all growing weeds, remove or "rotomow" old weed growth, smooth "rilled" areas/till compacted areas.

SEEDBED APPLICATION

	Method	Seeding Depth	Season of Seeding
Area 1:	Drill	¼" to ½" deep	Oct. 15 through May 20
Area 2:	Broadcast	¼" to ½" deep	Oct. 15 through May 20

MULCH REQUIREMENTS

Area 1: None
Area 2: 2000 pounds of wood fiber mulch/acre plus tackifier

FERTILIZER APPLICATION for Year of Seeding (Lbs./Acre)

	Nitrogen	P205
Area 1:	20 Min./25 Max.	20 Min./25 Max.
Area 2:	20 Min./25 Max.	20 Min./25 Max.

SEED MIXTURE

Area	Species	Lbs. PLS/ Acre	*Substitute Species	Lbs. PLS/ Acre
1-(a)	*Streambank Wg.*	4	(a) *Critana Thickspike Wg.*	4
" (b)	*Canadian Bluegrass*	2	(b) *Park Kentucky Bluegrass*	2
" (c)	*Durar Hard Fescue*	3	(c) *Covar Fescue*	3
" (d)	*Birdsfoot Trefoil*	1		
2-(a)	*Streambank Wg.*	4	(a) *Critana Thickspike Wg.*	4
" (b)	*Canadian Bluegrass*	2	(b) *Park Kentucky Bluegrass*	2
" (c)	*Durar Hard Fescue*	3	(c) *Covar Fescue*	3

Seeding (SEED MIXTURE - conclusion:)

*Individual substitute species shall be used only if the recommended species is not available, and substitution is approved by the Project Engineer. Substitute (a) for (a), (b) for (b), etc.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

All areas too restrictive to drill seed may be broadcast seeded.

Efforts will be made to prevent the spread of noxious weeds in this proposed project's area in accordance with the HNF's request in their April 20, 1992 letter. These include requiring the contractor to provide washed equipment in accordance with MDT Standard Construction practices (see also the Biological Resources, preceding).

Cooperating Agencies

The following Federal agencies are Cooperating Agencies for this environmental document in accordance with the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations, 40 CFR 1501.6:

the U.S. Department of Agriculture's **Helena National Forest** (HNF); and

the U.S. Department of the Interior's **Bureau of Land Management** (BLM).

The HNF responded on April 20, 1992 with the preceding comments under the Biological Resources, Threatened/Endangered Species, *Section 4(f)*, and Seeding headings. The following information was also provided by the HNF in this letter:

HNF Land Use (Forest Plan)

Section 24; T - 14 - N, R - 10 - W:

Section 24 is designated as Forest Plan Management Area type T-4. This T-4 type of Management Area includes productive timber lands near major travel routes, use areas, and water bodies. Timber management activities will be scheduled, providing a partial retention, or a retained Visual Quality Objective (VQO, in accordance with Volume 2 of the **Forest Landscape Management Book**/Ag. Hdbk.#462) is achieved. Elk winter and summer habitat will be maintained, and livestock grazing will remain at 1983 levels. Dispersed recreation (in non-designated recreational areas) could be both motorized and non-motorized.

Cooperating Agencies

HNF Land Use (Forest Plan - conclusion:)
Section 29; T - 14 - N, R - 9 - W:

Section 29 is designated as Forest Plan Management Area type T-2. A T-2 Management Area lies below 6000 ft., and includes both elk winter range and productive forest land. Timber management areas will be scheduled, provided adequate thermal and hiding cover are maintained. Livestock grazing will remain at 1983 levels, and dispersed recreation (in non-designated recreational areas) could be both motorized and non-motorized.

Cultural Resources

A cultural resource site ". . . related to historic mining." was described as being in Section 29; T - 14 - N, R - 9 - W. This cultural resource site has been identified as part of the Big Blackfoot Mine, 24 LC 828. This site was determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places by SHPO on December 22, 1986 as part of the F 24-3(13)68, Lincoln - East & West (P.M.S. C#1036 — currently under construction) project's **Cultural Resources Survey Report**.

Visuals

The VQO for the foreground viewing zone of FAP 24 on all HNF lands is retention (management activities will not be visually evident). This will be achieved by "rounding" the tops of new cutslopes in accordance with MDT Standard Construction practices.

An irregular clearing limit will also be implemented to reduce the contrast of an "unnatural" forest edge. The determination of the final clearing limits will be made prior to construction.

The HNF reviewed the ROUGH DRAFT version of this Supplemental Categorical Exclusion document. The HNF's letter of December 7, 1992 regarding this ROUGH DRAFT requested further evaluations on the Cultural Resources and Visual matters of the April 20, 1992 letter. These two issues have been resolved through the MDT's letter of December 17, 1992 to the HNF.

The BLM also reviewed, and had no comments on the ROUGH DRAFT version of this Supplemental Categorical Exclusion document in their letter of November 20, 1992.

The MDT requests concurrence that this proposed project still qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.117(d).

Edrie Vinson

Edrie L. Vinson, Chief
Environmental & Hazardous Waste Bureau

Concur _____ Date 12-21-92
Federal Highway Administration

ELV:ASJ:**0921-SCE.LET**

Attachments

CC: Eugene W. Stettler, P.E. - MDT Great Falls District (#3) Engineer
Gordon L. Larson, P.E., Assistant Administrator-MDT Highways Division
David S. Johnson, P.E. - MDT Preconstruction Engineer
John J. Maykuth, P.E. - MDT Construction Engineer
Thomas E. Martin, P.E. - MDT Right-of-Way Engineer (acting)
attention: Utilities Section
James R. Beck, Chief Counsel - MDT Legal Services
Edrie L. Vinson, Chief - MDT Environmental & Hazardous Waste Bureau
Lex McCullough - USDoI Bureau of Land Management Garnet Resource Area
Ernest R. Nunn, Forest Supervisor - USDA Helena National Forest

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Helena, Montana 59620
November 5, 1985

Mr. Stephen C. Kologi, P.E.
Chief, Preconstruction Bureau
Department of Highways
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Mr. Kologi:

Re: F 24-2(5)56
Helmville Junction - East

We have reviewed the Location Planning Report which you provided us for the above project.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has no lands in the project area which might be affected by your proposed development.

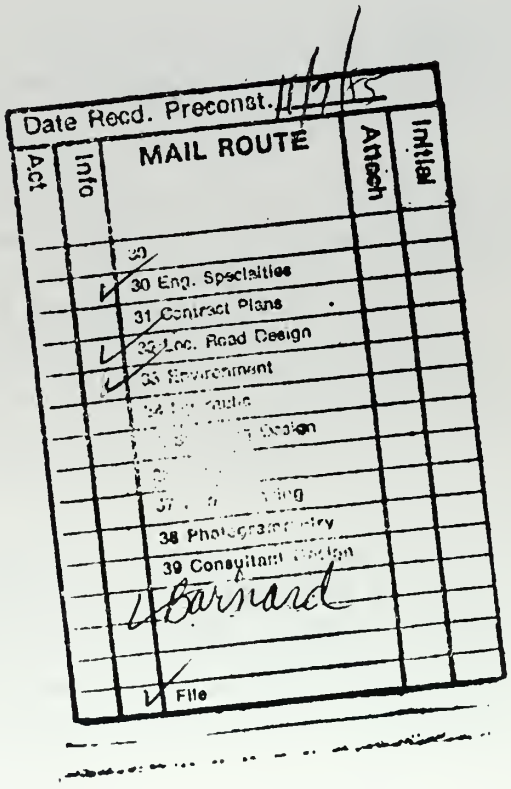
Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Olheiser

GRETCHEN OLHEISER, Chief
Project and Planning Bureau
Parks Division

GO/lj



STATE

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

2701 PROSPECT

STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

August 8, 1988
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William S. Dunbar
Project Development Engineer
Federal Highway Administration
301 South Park, Drawer 10056
Helena, MT 59626

F 24-2(5)56
HELMVILLE JCT. - EAST

This is to request your concurrence that the referenced project meets the criteria for classification as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of 23 CFR Part 771.117(d)(1). Also being requested is the approval of exceptions from standards.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The project is located on Montana 200 (FAP 24) primarily in Powell County with a small portion in Lewis & Clark County. It will begin at the junction with FAP 41 (Milepost 55.7) and will extend easterly 12.2± miles to Milepost 67.8±, about four miles west of Lincoln.

The area traversed by this project is a river valley through high mountains. The Blackfoot River is not crossed but the river encroaches upon the right-of-way at several locations. No alternate locations are being considered.

SCOPE

The scope of the project involves widening and overlaying the existing road to provide a minimum paved surface width of 28 feet if it can be accomplished for a cost in the range of $200,000± per mile. A subgrade width for a 40-foot future top may be used in areas not restricted by the river and/or steep terrain if within the cost per mile limit. However, if the cost of the 28-foot roadway significantly exceeds the $200,000 per mile due to mandatory excavation costs, the design will be expanded to accommodate a 32-foot top (as per the route segment plan). The subgrade would then be widened to accommodate a future 40-foot top throughout most of the project, and if practicable in river/steep backslope areas.

Adjoining passing lane sections have been proposed. The most favorable locations appear to be from Milepost 62.3± to 62.9± for the eastbound passing lane and from 62.9± to 63.6± for the westbound passing lane. We also propose to flatten a 700-foot vertical curve at Milepost 62.9 to increase passing sight distance. These 40-44 foot wide passing lane sections will be included if traffic volumes warrant them and if it is possible to allow full geometric

standards for passing lanes. Our Traffic Unit will be asked to provide recommendations for feasibility/need as well as the geometric design. A short 4-lane section in this area will also be taken into consideration to accommodate passing maneuvers.

Standard 6:1 surfacing inslopes and standard cut and fill slopes are proposed.

The horizontal alignment will generally be used in place, although the line will have to be projected to the north in some areas to avoid impacting the river. We also propose to flatten a series of three 6° curves from Milepost 63.6 to 64.2. Except for the vertical curve at Milepost 62.9±, the vertical alignment will be used as is.

The only bridge on the project, at Arrastra Creek, will be replaced with a new structure.

The work to be done will include right-of-way acquisition, minor grading, structure, drainage, widening, gravel surfacing, plant mix surfacing, seal and cover, signing, striping and other necessary items.

EXCEPTIONS TO STANDARDS

The following exceptions to standards are requested:

Minimum pavement width of 28 feet, which may be increased to 32 feet as explained in the Description of Proposed Project.

One 7° horizontal curve (at Milepost 60.7±).

Two sag vertical curves which provide less than 55 mph absolute stopping sight distance: a 52 mph curve at Milepost 69.9, and a 43 mph curve at Milepost 65.8. Since these curves are located on or adjacent to 7° and 6° horizontal curves, little sight distance would be gained by flattening them.

Three short (400± feet) grades: 4.28%, 4.434%, 4.505%.

The meandering of the Blackfoot River south of the highway and the high steep slopes to the north greatly restrict the potential for alignment and grade improvements.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The existing road was built in 1956, and was surfaced with six inches of gravel 24 feet wide on a 34-foot subgrade. In 1960 and 1961, 12 to 16 inches of gravel and 0.25 feet of plant mix 24 feet wide was added.

The horizontal alignment includes 24 curves, 10 of which have design speeds less than 60 mph. Only the 7° curve at Milepost 60.7 has a design speed less than 55 mph.

The vertical alignment is generally good, except for the two sag vertical curves which provide less than 55 mph absolute stopping sight distance. The steepest grade is 4.505%.

PAVEMENT CONDITION
The existing pavement is cracked and rutted throughout the project. It requires extensive maintenance.

TRAFFIC VOLUMES
Traffic data is as follows:

1988 ADT	= 1250
1991 ADT	= 1325
2011 ADT	= 1900
DHV	= 260
D	= 55-45%
T	= 17.3%
All Trucks	= 45.0%
18 kip EALs	= 163.00 (Daily)

The traffic warrants a 40-foot top width.

SYSTEM AND FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION
This project is located on the Primary System for the State of Montana. FAP 24 is a principal arterial and is the major truck route between Missoula and Great Falls.

TRAFFIC CONTROL AND REGULATIONS
Striping and signing done under this project will be in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Construction under traffic will be accomplished using appropriate traffic control devices.

ACCIDENT EXPERIENCE
Accident statistics for the nine-year period from January 1, 1979 through December 31, 1987 revelated 141 accidents with 100 injuries and three fatalities. The accident rate is 2.98 and the severity rate is 1.493, compared to the statewide averages of 2.02 and 1.51, respectively.

Accident types which vary from the average occurrence, and the respective corrective measures proposed, are listed below:

- 77.3% off-road accidents vs. 45% statewide average. Corrective measures: roadway widening and slope flattening.

- 36.5% fixed object hit vs. 22.7% statewide average. Corrective measures: trees and rocks/boulders will be removed from clear zone, road approach slopes will be flattened, and cut clopes will be flattened where possible.

- 60.6% overturning accidents vs. 23.3% statewide average. Corrective measures: roadway widening and slope flattening.

- 61.1% dark or night-time accidents vs. 41.1% statewide average. Corrective measures: striping and delineation will be upgraded.

Three accident clusters have been identified. The first begins at Milepost 55.4 (0.3 miles west of the beginning of the project) and extends to Milepost 55.9. The second accident cluster is from Milepost 60.9 to 61.8. Although no specific recommendations were made regarding these first two clusters, the corrective measures listed above should help to reduce the accident rates in these areas.

The third accident cluster is from Milepost 63.0 to 65.0. HES 4141(14), completed in November, 1984, addressed this with upgraded signing. The accident rate on this section has dropped about 60% since the project was completed.

TREATMENT OF HIGH HAZARD LOCATIONS

No high hazard locations have been identified.

SAFETY ENHANCEMENT

Safety will be enhanced by virtue of the widened driving surface and flattened inslopes. Approach slopes within the clear zone will be flattened to 6:1, as will approach pipe ends, which will be fitted with the 6:1 Road Approach Culvert End Treatment (RACET).

Guardrail will be installed where warranted. It is anticipated that extensive installation of new guardrail will be necessary, particularly on high fills where the Blackfoot River encroaches on the fill slopes. Trees and rocks/boulders within the clear zone will be removed unless protected by guardrail.

The installation of a passing lane if warranted should help to reduce questionable passing maneuvers.

SKID RESISTANCE

The new overlay will have a chip seal which should provide excellent skid resistance.

ECONOMICS

This overlay and widen project should provide good service to the traveling public for some time, and its cost will be substantially less than complete reconstruction.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The existing right-of-way, which varies in width from 100 to 600 feet, will be used to the extent possible. New right-of-way will probably be required in the high cut areas to the left, in the realignment section (Milepost 63.6-64.2), and in the passing lane sections. It is estimated that right-of-way acquisition should not exceed 100 acres.

The majority of the adjacent land is timber and is divided into private and government ownerships. A small tract of rural residential homesite property is adjacent to the existing highway at Milepost 66.6±. However, no relocation will be necessary and probably no right-of-way from these homesites will be needed.

The predominate land use along the corridor is timber harvesting with some grazing included.

To comply with the Farmland Protection Policy Act, we have completed Parts I, III, VI, and VII of Form AD-1006, the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating. A value of 38 points was computed for the site assessment, which added to the maximum value of 100 points for relative value of farmland gives a total of 138 points. The USDA recommend that any site receiving a total score of less than 160 points be given a minimal level of consideration for protection and no alternate locations need to be evaluated.

A traffic noise prediction analysis was done from the residence located about 110 feet south of the existing centerline at Milepost 66.6. For the worst case, assuming a passing lane is built through here, traffic would be moved 12 feet closer to the residence. Using 2011 traffic volume estimates and the Leq(h) nomograph method, a value of 61.3 dBA was computed for this site. This is well below the EPA noise abatment level of 67 dBA for activity in Category B. However, traffic noise through the corridor will increase as traffic volumes increase.

A public informational meeting was held on March 30, 1987 on the Helmville Junction - East project and the Lincoln - East and West project which connects to the east end of Helmville Junction - East. No specific concerns or objectives were expressed on the Helmville Junction - East project. The public generally supported the project.

There are no delineated floodplains within the limits of this project.

The two streams located within the project limits, the Blackfoot River and Arrastra Creek, are both below their respective headwaters as defined by the Corps of Engineers. An individual Section 404 Permit will be required if more than 200 cubic yards of fill or riprap is placed below the ordinary highwater elevation at any site. If less than 200 cubic yards is placed, construction activities may be covered by a COE Nationwide Section 404 Permit. The project will be designed to minimize the placement of fill material or riprap below the ordinary highwater elevations of these streams.

If roadway widening can be confined to the north side in areas where the existing highway is immediately adjacent to the Blackfoot River, then there will be no channel modifications necessary. A channel modification will not be necessary to replace the structure at Arrastra Creek.

There are several areas scattered along the project where the new roadway may impact adjacent wetlands of the Blackfoot River. When sufficient design is completed to determine the significance of any wetlands impacts, a Wetlands Finding will be completed, if appropriate, which documents the impacts and mitigation measures to be developed.

The project passes through the Helena National Forest at two location (Milepost 64.1 - 64.8 and Milepost 67.2 - 67.8). The Forest Service has informed us that there will be no Section 4(f) impacts on the portions of the project within the National Forest. No Section 4(f) impacts have been identified on the remainder of the project.

The cultural resources survey revealed five historical sites. The State Historic Preservation Office determined that none of the sites are eligible for the National Register. Therefore, there will be no Section 106 impacts.

This project is not a major action and the effect on the environmental will not be substantial. There will be only minor alternations of land use and no adverse impact on traffic patterns. The major impact of the project will be to provide a better transportation facility and to enhance safety for the traveling public. There will be no known effect on minority groups or area neighborhoods.

The proposed project should have little long-term effect on air quality in the area. Construction of the project will cause some temporary air pollution due to dust and fumes. The contractor will be required to adhere to all federal, state and local regulations to minimize this pollution. This project does not conflict with the State Implementation Plan. Construction noise may cause some temporary but no permanent adverse impacts. Water pollution will be kept to a minimum by adherence to all applicable state and national laws.

This project should not have any significant impact on any national, historical, natural, environmental or educational landmarks in the area. There are no floodplains or fish and wildlife habitat that will be significantly affected by this project.

It is in the best public interest to improve the existing facility as proposed within present funding limitations.

Stephen C. Kologi

STEPHEN C. KOLOGI, P.E., CHIEF
PRECONSTRUCTION BUREAU

Approved Charles P. Dunn
Federal Highway Administration

Date 8-25-88

SCK:WMS:mb:cm:2/s
cc: D. M. Harriott
T. J. Barnard
R. G. Anderson
D. S. Johnson
J. R. Ricker
D. P. Bartsch
K. F. Skoog
T. E. Martin
L. J. Ivanovitch
R. E. Champion
C. S. Peil
R. T. Rask
E. G. Murphy
T. L. Yarger
G. A. Jackson
V. R. Mueller
M. J. Langenfus

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

2701 PROSPECT AVE.

STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

January 16, 1991

Robert McInerney
US Army Corps of Engineers
c/o DNRC/CDD
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-2301

Subject: CWA Section 404 Permits:
F 24-1(22)27, Clearwater Jct. - West
F 24-2(5)56, Helmville Jct. - East
F 24-3(16)68, Lincoln - East and West
F 24-3(19)83, Rogers Pass - West

Enclosed for each of the above projects is a copy of the approved Categorical Exclusion environmental document and a set of design plans. The environmental document for Rogers Pass - West has not yet been completely processed, but will soon be approved as a Categorical Exclusion. Also enclosed is a copy of the "Rogers Pass to Bonner Corridor Wetland Finding". The enclosed design plans have been marked with the locations of wetlands encroachments as listed in the Wetland Finding report.

We are requesting that a determination be made concerning the applicability of Nationwide Section 404 Permits for each of these projects. We have attempted to avoid impacts to wetlands where practicable. Where impacts were determined to be unavoidable, we have tried to minimize encroachments. We intend to mitigate the total corridor wetlands loses by funding the creation of 25 acres of wetlands as part of the jointly developed Blackfoot Waterfowl Production Area east of Ovando. This mitigation plan has full support of the Interagency Wetland Group.

The following projects are also part of the enclosed Corridor Wetland Finding, but have already been permitted as either Section 404 Nationwide 23 or Section 404 individual permits:

RF 24-1(2)9	Potomac - West	Individual Permit
F 24-1(1)0	Bonner - N.E.	Individual Permit
F 24-1(16)32	Clearwater Jct.-E	Nationwide 23
F 24-1(16)43	Ovando - East	Nationwide 23

The Section 404 permit for Potomac - West states that, "Wetland mitigation will be undertaken as determined necessary by the interagency corridor study team". The Section 404 permit for Bonner - NE does not specifically state any mitigation measures required as a special condition.

If you need additional information, please contact Gordan Stockstad at 444-6224.

David S. Johnson, P.E.
Preconstruction Engineer

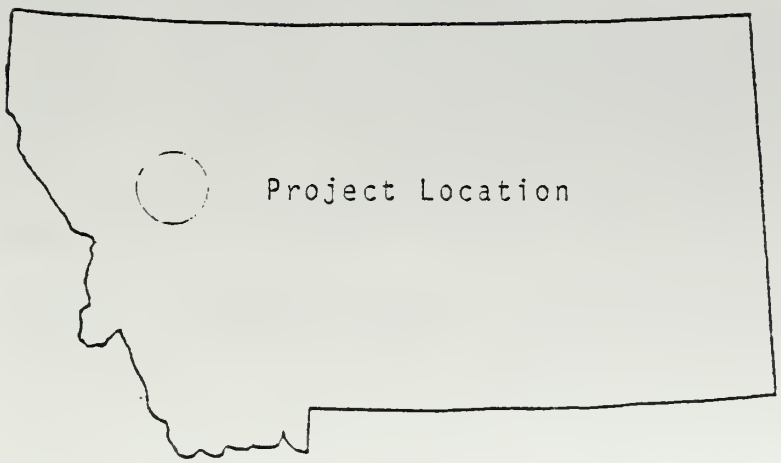
DSJ:GTS:D:ENV:5.bh

Enclosures

cc: D. S. Johnson
C. S. Peil
R. E. Williams
J. T. Weaver
E. W. Stettler
D. R. McIntyre
Environmental Section
File

Rogers Pass to Bonner

Corridor Wetland Finding



Rogers Pass to Bonner
Corridor Wetland Study

Description of the Area

This project begins at the continental divide on the Rocky Mountain front, and continues west through the Blackfoot River drainage basin to the Sapphire Mountain range. The Blackfoot River floodplain and surrounding mountain ranges are the result of glacial activity that occurred in the area centuries ago. Fertile soils, fluvial gravel deposits, and pocketed wetlands are characteristic throughout this corridor.

The variability of habitat in this corridor allows for a substantial population of fish and wildlife to inhabit it. Mineral deposits and the exploration for them are prevalent as well as major agricultural development. The topography of the area confines the existing roadway to the valley floor. It parallels the Blackfoot River throughout most of the corridor and crosses it three times and the Clearwater River once.

Description of the Project

The construction throughout this corridor consists of eight separate projects between Rogers Pass and Bonner which collectively total 63.64 miles of highway reconstruction. The project lies on Montana Highway 200 and runs through Lewis & Clark, Powell, and Missoula Counties. It primarily consists of the complete reconstruction and widening of the existing highway in order to upgrade it to modern standards. It will incorporate two twelve-foot driving lanes with each having a four-foot shoulder.

Wetlands on these projects were inventoried by the MDOH Biologists using the Cooperative Wetland Evaluation Procedure developed as a result of the Interagency Wetland Group.

Site Inventory and Description

There are 45 wetland sites throughout this corridor that have been identified by MDOH biologists as being impacted by the construction procedures. The wetlands being impacted are generally associated with the Blackfoot River and its floodplain. They are categorized as three different types. Wetland Functional Value Rankings are summarized for each type in Table 1. Representative photos are attached to illustrate each type.

> Type 1 - Meander Loops. These areas of the Blackfoot River have been cut off either by natural channel dynamics or historical roadway construction. The majority of these loops are rather large in size and offer habitat for a variety of animals such as big game, waterfowl, songbirds, game birds, small mammals,

amphibians, and invertebrates. These areas receive their water from both seepage and run off collection and the vegetation that is found in these areas include willow, aspen, alder, chokecherry, cattail, and poa grass species. Approximately 30% of the wetlands associated with the construction in this corridor are of this type.

Type 2 - Low Flats. These type of wetlands are typically areas of low elevation that are either inundated or saturated for the majority of the year. They collect water from run off and some even have natural springs feeding them. These wetlands provide habitat for songbirds, waterfowl, amphibians, and invertebrates. The vegetation consists primarily of willow, chokecherry, alder, cattail, and poa grass species. Approximately 40% of the wetlands associated with this project are of this type.

Type 3 - Roadside Borrow Areas. These wetlands were initially designed as water collection areas for highway run off. Because of insufficient drainage, they have remained inundated or saturated for long periods of time. Through the years, they have received sediment from passing vehicles and runoff deposition, and they now give rise to species of vegetation that are indicators of wetlands. Vegetation consists primarily of willow, alder, chokecherry, cattail, and poa grass species. Wildlife values are moderate due to their size, but these areas still offer cover for large mammals, songbirds, amphibians, and invertebrates. Approximately 30% of the wetlands associated with the construction in this corridor are of this type.

Wetlands Impacts and Mitigation

Total wetland area impacted through this corridor by construction activities involve approximately 16.11 acres over 45 sites on 8 separate projects. Wetland impacts and locations have been itemized by project and are summarized in Table 2.

Measures to avoid these wetlands would be neither cost effective nor practicable considering the topography of the area and the fact that the highway parallels the Blackfoot River through most of the corridor.

On-site mitigation is planned for the expected 16.11 acres of impacted wetlands. The mitigation that is planned for this corridor will be a joint effort between the MDOH, FWP, Ducks Unlimited, and USFWS. It involves the development of a large wetland complex on the federally-owned Blackfoot Waterfowl Production Area (formerly the North Fork Ranch) which is approximately 8 miles east of Ovando. Of the 105 acres of wetlands being created at the Blackfoot WPA, the MDOH will be credited with 25 acres to be used as mitigation

for the impacted wetlands in this corridor. The MDOH has contributed $100,000 to the acquisition of the Blackfoot WPA and an additional $25,000 for enhancement measures. The WPA will incorporate 4 separate pools by constructing several dikes and inserting gully plugs at strategic points in order to hold back natural spring water. Pool 3 has been designated as the MDOH pool and will provide approximately 24.9 acres of wetland habitat for the area. The attached map illustrates the plan for the Blackfoot WPA. This area is located in the USFWS Benton Lake Wetland Management District and will be solely managed by the USFWS.

* As outlined in Section 2A of executive order 11990, the MDOH is in compliance with the two major provisions of that section which state: There is no practicable alternative to the proposed construction and the proposed project includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to the wetlands which may result from such use, and to mitigate for their loss.

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TABLE 1

Summary of Wetland Functional Rankings for Sites

Parameter	Type I	Type II	Type III
Habitat Interspersion	2	2	1
Cover: Water Ratio	3	1	1
Inundation Frequency	3	2	2
Water Flow Rating	2	1	1
Relative Occurrence	2	2	2
Sediment Control	2	2	2
Flood Control	2	1	2
Nutrient Retention	2	2	2
Food Chain Production	2	2	2
Wildlife Habitat Value			
Waterfowl	2	1	1
Upland Game Birds	1	2	2
Song Birds	2	2	2
Raptors/Owls	2	2	2
Furbearers	2	1	1
Small Mammals	2	2	2
Ungulates (Deer)	1	2	2
Large Predators	1	1	1
Fisheries Habitat Value			
Montana Fishes of Special Concern	1	NA	NA
Trout	2	NA	NA
Other Salmonids	1	NA	NA
Non-Salmonid Game Fish	1	NA	NA
Rough or Non-Game Fish	2	NA	NA

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Table 2

	Project	(Sq. Ft.)	(Acres)
	F 24-3(19)83 Rogers Pass - West (MP 68-83)	21,780	.5
	F 24-3(16)68 Lincoln - East & West (MP 56-68)	10,206	.2343
	F 24-2(5)56 Helmville Jct. - East (MP 43-56)	395,960	9.06
**	F 24-1(16)43 Ovando - East (MP 32-43)	68,000	1.56
**	F 24-1(16)32 Clearwater Jct. - East (MP 27-32)	158,994	3.64
	F 24-1(22)27 Clearwater Jct. - West (MP 9-27)	18,700	.43
*	F 24-1(2)9 Potomac - West (MP 2-9)	26,800	.61
*	F 24-1(1)2 Bonner - Northeast (MP 0-2)	1,742	.04
	TOTAL	702,182	16.11

1 Acre = 43,560 ft.²

* Construction completed - Individual Section 404 Permit issued
** Construction completed - Nationwide Section 404 Permit issued

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Project	Site No.	Station to Station	Lt./Rt.	(Sq. Ft.	(Acres)
24-3(19)83 Rogers Pass - West	1	273+40 to 286+50	Lt.	21,780	.5
F 24-3(16)68 Lincoln - East & West	1	23+20 to 27+50	Lt.	10,206	.2343
F 24-2(5)56 Helmville Jct. - East	1	61+00 to 69+00	Rt.	28,000	0.64
	2	81+00 to 88+00	Lt.	21,000	0.48
	3	81+50 to 84+50	Rt.	7,500	0.17
	4	99+00 to 116+50	Rt.	35,000	0.80
	5	110+00 to 115+50	Lt.	11,000	0.25
	6	149+50 to 165+50	Rt.	24,000	0.55
	7	149+50 to 153+00	Lt.	3,300	0.08
	8	161+00 to 163+50	Lt.	3,750	0.09
	9	194+00 to 195+50	Rt.	1,500	0.03
	10	197+00 to 200+00	Rt.	3,000	0.07
	11	238+00 to 241+00	Rt.	6,000	0.14
	12	243+30 to 247+50	Rt.	8,000	0.18
	13	253+00 to 258+50	Rt.	0	0.00
	14	280+50 to 296+00	Rt.	62,000	1.42
	15	301+00 to 309+00	Rt.	16,000	0.37
	16	314+00 to 316+50	Rt.	5,000	0.11
	17	329+00 to 331+00	Lt.	2,000	0.05
	18	375+00 to 384+00	Rt.	18,000	0.41
	19	383+00 to 384+50	Lt.	2,250	0.05
	20	414+00 to 416+50	Lt.	2,500	0.06
	21	454+00 to 470+00	Rt.	32,000	0.73
	22	486+50 to 493+00	Lt.	9,750	0.22
	23	488+00 to 501+00	Rt.	19,500	0.45
	24	523+00 to 533+00	Lt.	15,000	0.34
	25	532+50 to 571+00	Rt.	38,500	0.88
	26	555+00 to 574+00	Lt.	19,000	0.44
	27	597+00 to 601+00	Rt.	0	0.00
	28	634+50 to 636+00	Rt.	2,500	0.05
	TOTAL			395,960	9.06
24-1(16)43 Ovando - East	1	249+00 to 255+00	Rt.	6,000	.13
	2	249+00 to 255+00	Lt.	6,000	.13
	3	297+00 to 303+00	Rt.	6,000	.13
	4	297+50 to 303+50	Lt.	6,000	.13
	5	386+20 to 396+20	Rt.	10,000	.22
	6	456+00 to 459+00	Rt.	4,000	.09
	7	456+00 to 459+00	Lt.	4,000	.09
	8	513+00 to 533+00	Rt.	13,000	.29
	9	519+50 to 533+50	Lt.	13,000	.29
	TOTAL			68,000	1.56

Branch of Realty

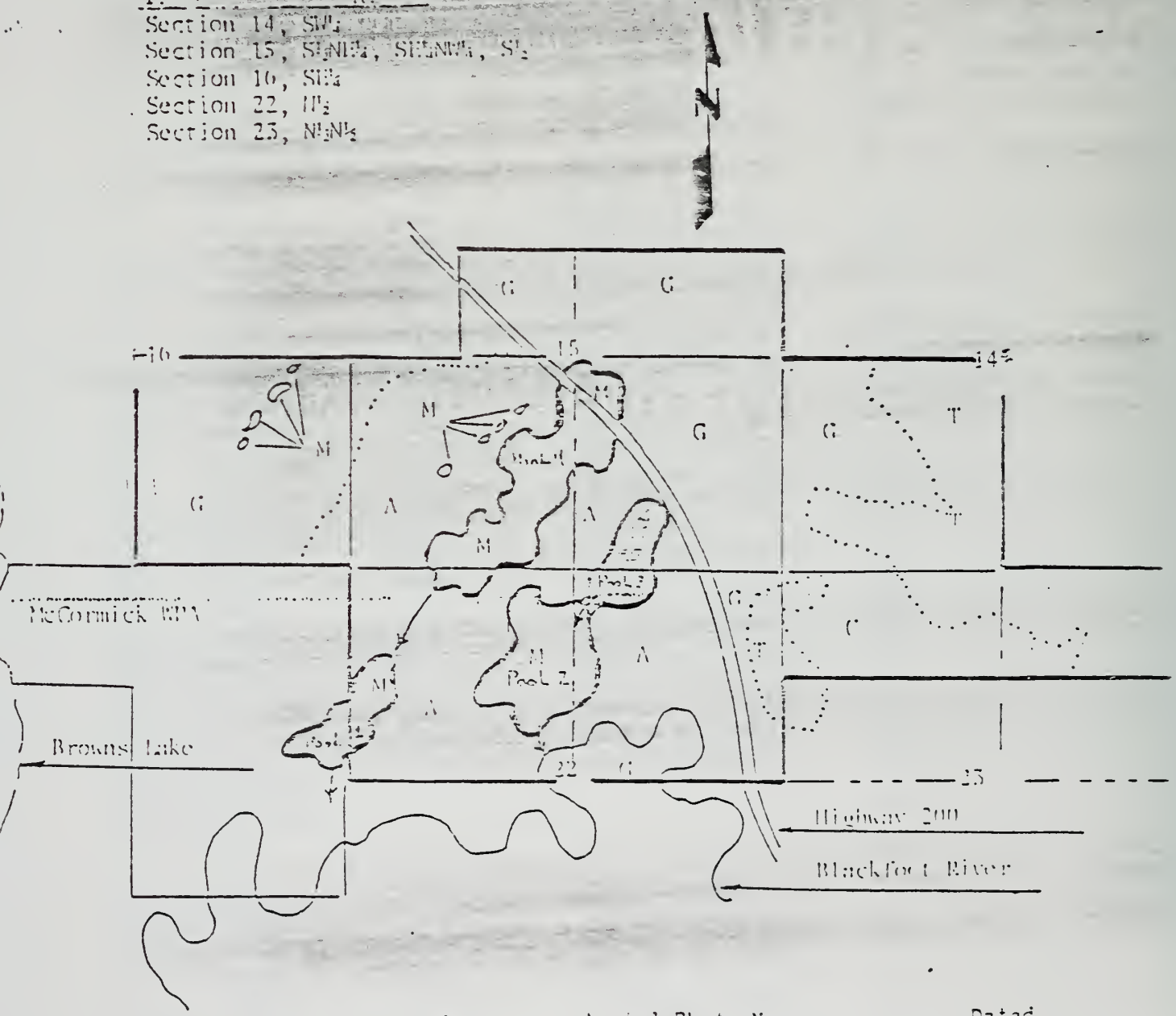
OWNER: The Nature Conservancy TRACT NO.: (3,6) 1225 ACRE

UNIT: Blackfoot River WPA Powell COUNTY STATE OF: Montana

DESCRIPTION: PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

T. 14N R. 11W

Section 14, SW¼
Section 15, S½NE¼, SE¼NW¼, S½
Section 16, S½
Section 22, W½
Section 23, N½N½



Base from B.L.M. Plat approved _____ Aerial Photo No. _____ Dated _____

LEGEND

Scale: 2.75 inches = 1 mile

A	Agriculture		Swamp
G	Grass	M	Marsh
	Hay, wild		Water
T	Timber		Drains To Be Plugged
	Brush		

Photograph Station

Examined by RLJ 6/88

Platted by RLJ 6/88

Checked by RLJ 6/88

Exhibit ___

MDOH/MDFWP
WETLAND SITE EVALUATION

Date 8/20/90

Project No.

Project Name Rogers Pass to Bonner (Corridor Study)

County Lewis & Clark, Powell, Missoula
Drainage Blackfoot River
R. NA, T. NA, Section NA

Site Location Station (on plan sheet)

Comments (route, milepost, etc.) Type I Wetland

1. Classification (from Novitski, 1979)

Hydrologic Type(s) I - Permanent shallow water
Area

Vegetative Type(s) (1) A - floating
Dominant Species (a) Duckweed
(b) Pondweed
(c) Lilly
(2) D - Rooted Emergent
(a) Cattail
(b) Bullrush
(c) Poa/sedge
(3)
(a)
(b)
(c)

2. Adjacent Supporting Habitats (Descriptive Summary)
Wetlands (type, vegetation, area, location, condition, wildlife values)
Adjacent wetlands are backwater channels of the Blackfoot River. Vegetation consists of woody shrubs - i.e. chokecherry, alder, woods rose, and some native and Poa grass species. Wildlife values are high as a result of the diverse supporting habitats.

Uplands (vegetation type, area, location, condition, land use, erosion potential, wildlife values)
Uplands consists of rough mountainous terrain and the floodplain of the Blackfoot River. Moderate agriculture is practiced, but not enough to impact wildlife habitat and values. Erosion is low due to the native grasses established.

3. Relative Commonness of Wetland Type in Area
(abundant, (common), rare)

4. Degree of Habitat Interspersion
Low = 1 Moderate = (2) High = 3

5. Vegetative Cover Characteristics of Flooded Wetlands.
(not applicable to non-flooded wetlands)

		Rating
a.	Cover occupies more than 95% of wetland	0.5
b.	Cover occupies 76-95% of wetland in a peripheral band	1.5
c.	Cover occupies 76-95% of wetland with scattered open water areas	2.5
d.	Cover occupies 26-75% of wetland occurring in dense patches or diffuse open stands	3.0
e.	Cover occupies 26-75% of wetland in a peripheral band	(2.0)
f.	Cover occupies 5-25% of wetland occurring in a peripheral band or diffuse open stands	1.0
g.	Cover occupies less than 5% of the wetland	0.5

6. Inundation Frequency

		Rating
a.	Temporary surface water or saturated soil	1
b.	Seasonally or intermittently flooded	2
c.	Semi-permanent or permanently flooded	(3)

7. Sediment Control/Load Rating Criteria

		Rating
a.	Wetland does not receive detectable amounts of sediment - the watercourse is relatively sediment-free and accumulations are not evident	1
b.	Wetland receives some sediment load but not enough to impact the plants or aquatic organisms using the site. The watercourse has sediment accumulations, but the water is not normally turbid	(2)

c. Wetland receives heavy sediment loads that has impacted the plant/animal growth/use of the site. The watercourse has large accumulations of sediment and the water is usually turbid 3

8. Water Flow Rating Criteria (check one)

a. Most of the water flows through the wetland in distinct channels or watercourses or has little flow of surface water during the year ..... ____

b. Channels of watercourses present, but a significant portion of water is sheet flow through the wetland ..... ____

c. Water flows across wetland uniformly and is not contained in channels or watercourses X

9. Nutrient Retention Capabilities (circle one ranking)

a. Non-contiguous wetland with little accumulation of organic matter 1

b. Non-contiguous wetland with organic material accumulation 2

c. Contiguous wetland with little accumulation of organic matter 2.5

d. Contiguous wetland with organic material accumulation ..... (3)

10. Relative Flood Storage Potential

a. Section 8, line a; Section 6, line a 1

b. Section 8, line b; Section 6, line b .... (2)

c. Section 8, line c; Section 6, line c 3

11. Relative Food Chain Support Potential (Based on percent vegetative cover and estimated relative standing crop).

a. Low (vegetative cover less than 5%; non-contiguous; no accumulation of organic matter) 1

b. Moderate (vegetative cover 6-25%; contiguous or non-contiguous to other supporting habitats; some accumulation of organic material) 2

c. High (vegetative cover 26-100%; contiguous to other supporting habitats, some accumulation of organic material) 3

12. Wildlife Habitat Values (Overall) Rating (0-3)
(Based on cover, diversity, supporting habitats, and productivity)

Evaluation Group or Species

a.	Waterfowl	3
b.	Upland Game Birds	1
c.	Songbirds	2
d.	Raptors and Others	1
e.	Furbearers	2
f.	Non-furbearing small mammals	2
g.	Large Ungulates (elk, moose, deer)	2
h.	Large Carnivores (bear, cat)	1
i.	Threatened or Endangered Species	1

Evaluate utilization by waterfowl/wildlife of wetland site for nesting, rearing young, feeding or protective cover based upon the following criteria (high, medium, low).

Use by wildlife group is <u>significant</u> in that loss or reduction by the wildlife use would have an adverse effect on the population of the species or wildlife in the general area (township) 3

Use by wildlife group is <u>evident</u> or probably and loss or reduction of the wildlife use may have an adverse effect on the local wildlife population (surrounding section[s]) 2

Use by wildlife group is <u>low</u> or incidental in that loss or reduction of the wildlife use would have a negligible effect on the local wildlife population . 1

Use by wildlife group is non-existent at any time during any year. NOTE: Use .3 to signify occasional use 0

13. Estimate utilization by fish for spawning, nursery, feeding, or cover.

a.	Montana fishes of special concern	1
b.	Trout "brookies"	1
c.	Other Salmonids	1
d.	Non-Salmonid Game Fish (pike, bass, walleyes)	0
e.	Non-Game or Rough Fish	2

Use by fish is significant in that loss or reduction of the fish use would have an adverse effect on the population of the fish in adjacent waters 3

Use by fish is evident or probably and loss or reduction of the fish use may have an adverse effect on the population of fish in the immediate vicinity but the magnitude of the reduction would be insignificant in relation to the total population of fish in adjacent waters 2

Use by fish is low or incidental in that loss or reduction of the fish use would have negligible effect on the population of fish in the immediate vicinity 1

Use by fish never present at any time in the year 0

14. Recreational Use Potential 1 (2) 3

15. Summary of Functional Values and Overall Site Ranking

Sediment control rating	2/3
Nutrient retention rating	2/3
Relative flood storage rating	2/3
Relative food chain support	2/3
Wildlife Habitat Values	
Highest (Evaluation Group ____)	3/3
Lowest (Evaluation Group ____)	1/3
Fisheries Habitat Values	
Highest (Evaluation Group ____)	1/3
Lowest (Evaluation Group ____)	0/3

13/24

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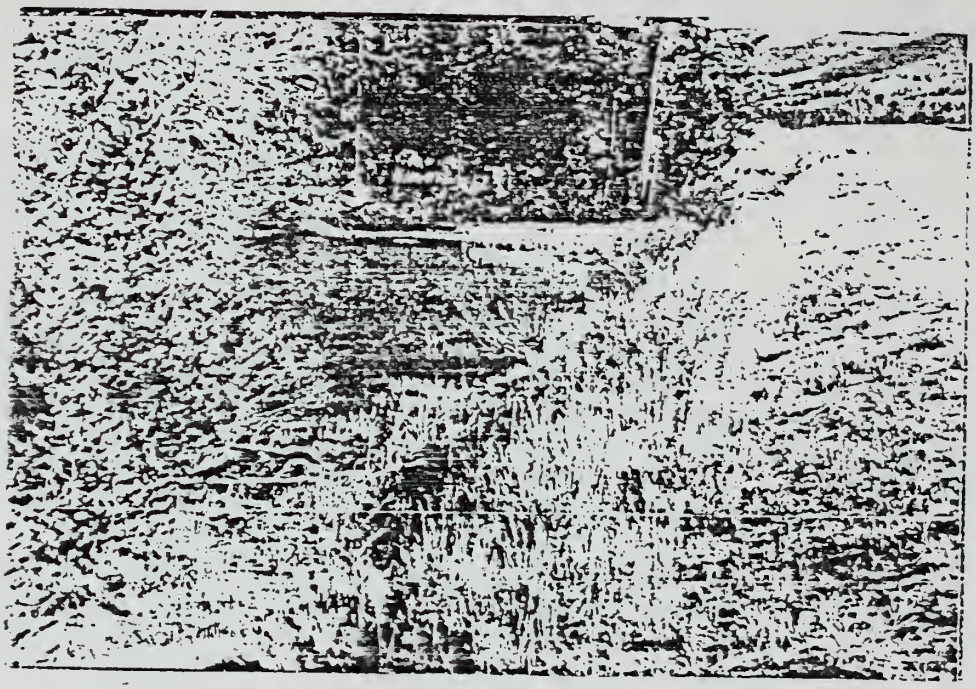
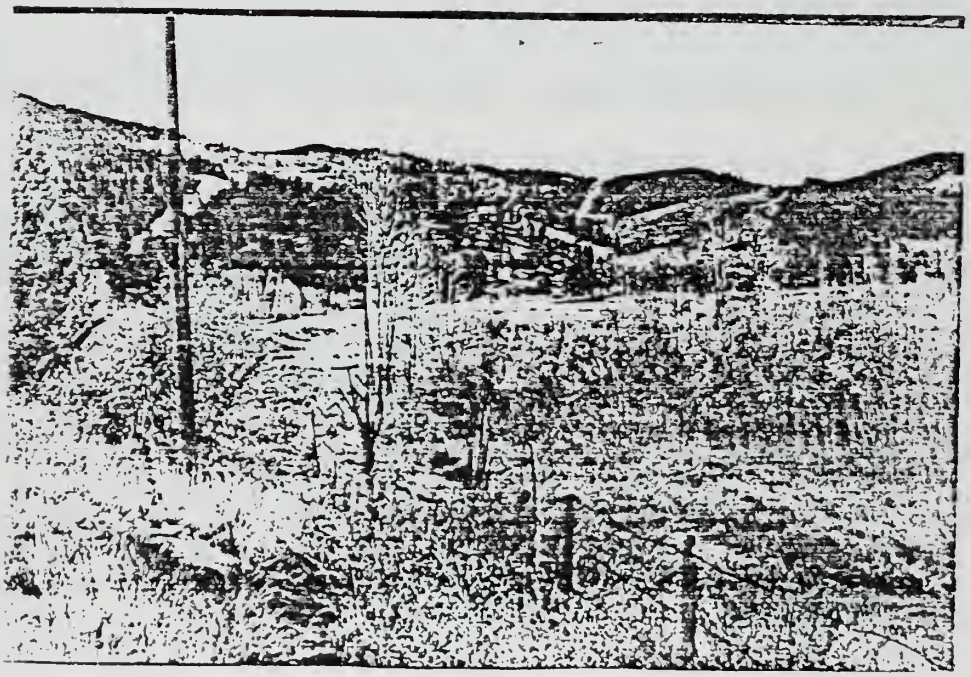
Representative Photos of a Type I Wetland



A typical meander loop cut off by previous construction.



The remains of a meander loop changed by natural channel dynamics.

MDOH/MDFWP
WETLAND SITE EVALUATION

Date 3/20/90

Project No.

Project Name Rogers Pass to Bonner (Corridor Study)

County Lewis & Clark, Powell, Missoula
Drainage Blackfoot River
R. NA, T. NA, Section NA

Site Location Station (on plan sheet)

Comments (route, milepost, etc.) Type II Wetland

1. Classification (from Novitski, 1979)

Hydrologic Type(s) II - Seasonal or high water Area

Vegetative Type(s) Dominant Species
(1) A - Herbaceous
(a) Cattail
(b) Sedge
(c) Poa
(2) B - Shrub
(a) Willow
(b) Chokecherry
(c) Woods Rose/Alder
(3)
(a)
(b)
(c)

2. Adjacent Supporting Habitats (Descriptive Summary)
Wetlands (type, vegetation, area, location, condition, wildlife values)
Wetlands are low flat areas that collect H_2O from runoff and possibly spring feed. Vegetation is comprised of willow, alder, cattail, and poa. These areas provide habitat for a variety of animals. they usually perpetuate into the surrounding uplands.

Uplands (vegetation type, area, location, condition, land use, erosion potential, wildlife values)
Uplands consist of rough mountainous terrain and the Blackfoot River floodplain. Moderate agriculture is practiced, but not enough to impact the wildlife values

and habitat. Erosion potential is low because of the well established native grasses.

3. Relative Commonness of Wetland Type in Area
(abundant, (common), rare)

4. Degree of Habitat Interspersion
Low = 1 Moderate = (2) High = 3

5. Vegetative Cover Characteristics of Flooded Wetlands. (not applicable to non-flooded wetlands)

		Rating
a.	Cover occupies more than 95% of wetland	0.5
b.	Cover occupies 76-95% of wetland in a peripheral band	1.5
c.	Cover occupies 76-95% of wetland with scattered open water areas	(2.5)
d.	Cover occupies 26-75% of wetland occurring in dense patches or diffuse open stands	3.0
e.	Cover occupies 26-75% of wetland in a peripheral band	2.0
f.	Cover occupies 5-25% of wetland occurring in a peripheral band or diffuse open stands	1.0
g.	Cover occupies less than 5% of the wetland	0.5

6. Inundation Frequency

		Rating
a.	Temporary surface water or saturated soil	1
b.	Seasonally or intermittently flooded	(2)
c.	Semi-permanent or permanently flooded	3

7. Sediment Control/Load Rating Criteria

		Rating
a.	Wetland does not receive detectable amounts of sediment - the watercourse is relatively sediment-free and accumulations are not evident	1
b.	Wetland receives some sediment load but not enough to impact the plants or aquatic organisms using the site. The watercourse has sediment accumulations, but the water is not normally turbid	(2)

c. Wetland receives heavy sediment loads that has impacted the plant/animal growth/use of the site. The watercourse has large accumulations of sediment and the water is usually turbid 3

8. Water Flow Rating Criteria (check one)

a. Most of the water flows through the wetland in distinct channels or watercourses or has little flow of surface water during the year X

b. Channels of watercourses present, but a significant portion of water is sheet flow through the wetland ..... ____

c. Water flows across wetland uniformly and is not contained in channels or watercourses ____

9. Nutrient Retention Capabilities (circle one ranking)

a. Non-contiguous wetland with little accumulation of organic matter 1

b. Non-contiguous wetland with organic material accumulation 2

c. Contiguous wetland with little accumulation of organic matter ..... (2.5)

d. Contiguous wetland with organic material accumulation 3

10. Relative Flood Storage Potential

a. Section 8, line a; Section 6, line a .... (1)

b. Section 8, line b; Section 6, line b 2

c. Section 8, line c; Section 6, line c 3

11. Relative Food Chain Support Potential (Based on percent vegetative cover and estimated relative standing crop).

a. Low (vegetative cover less than 5%; non-contiguous; no accumulation of organic matter) 1

b. Moderate (vegetative cover 6-25%; contiguous or non-contiguous to other supporting habitats; some accumulation of organic material) 2

c. High (vegetative cover 26-100%; contiguous to other supporting habitats, some accumulation of organic material) ..... (3)

12. Wildlife Habitat Values (Overall) Rating (0-3)
(Based on cover, diversity, supporting habitats, and productivity)

Evaluation Group or Species

a.	Waterfowl	2
b.	Upland Game Birds	2
c.	Songbirds	2
d.	Raptors and Others	1
e.	Furbearers	2
f.	Non-furbearing small mammals	3
g.	Large Ungulates (elk, moose, deer)	3
h.	Large Carnivores (bear, cat)	1
i.	Threatened or Endangered Species	1

Evaluate utilization by waterfowl/wildlife of wetland site for nesting, rearing young, feeding or protective cover based upon the following criteria (high, medium, low).

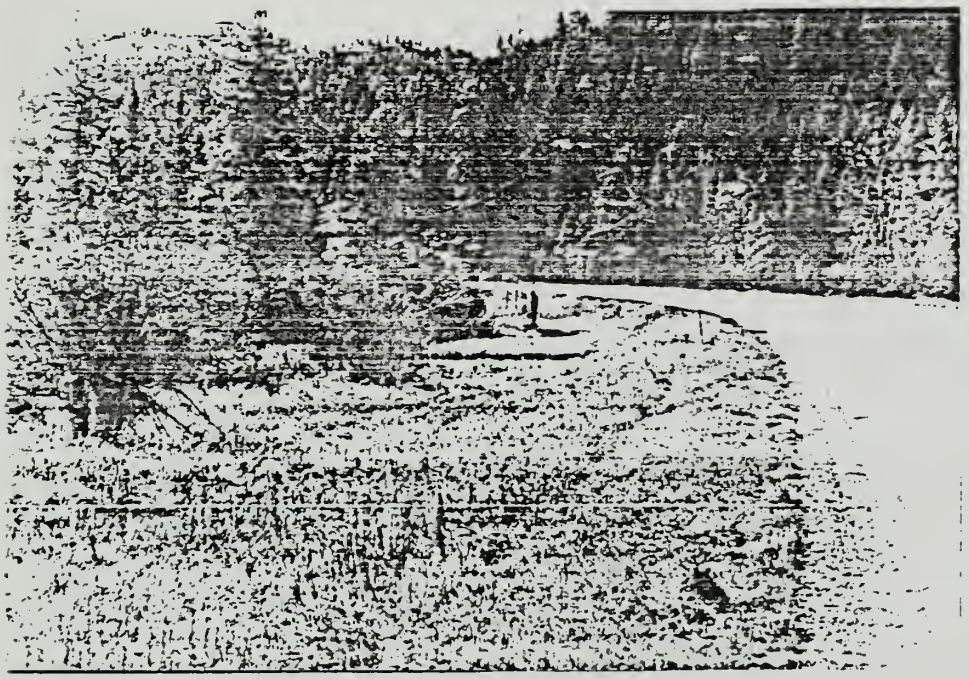
Use by wildlife group is <u>significant</u> in that loss or reduction by the wildlife use would have an adverse effect on the population of the species or wildlife in the general area (township) 3

Use by wildlife group is <u>evident</u> or probably and loss or reduction of the wildlife use may have an adverse effect on the local wildlife population (surrounding section[s]) 2

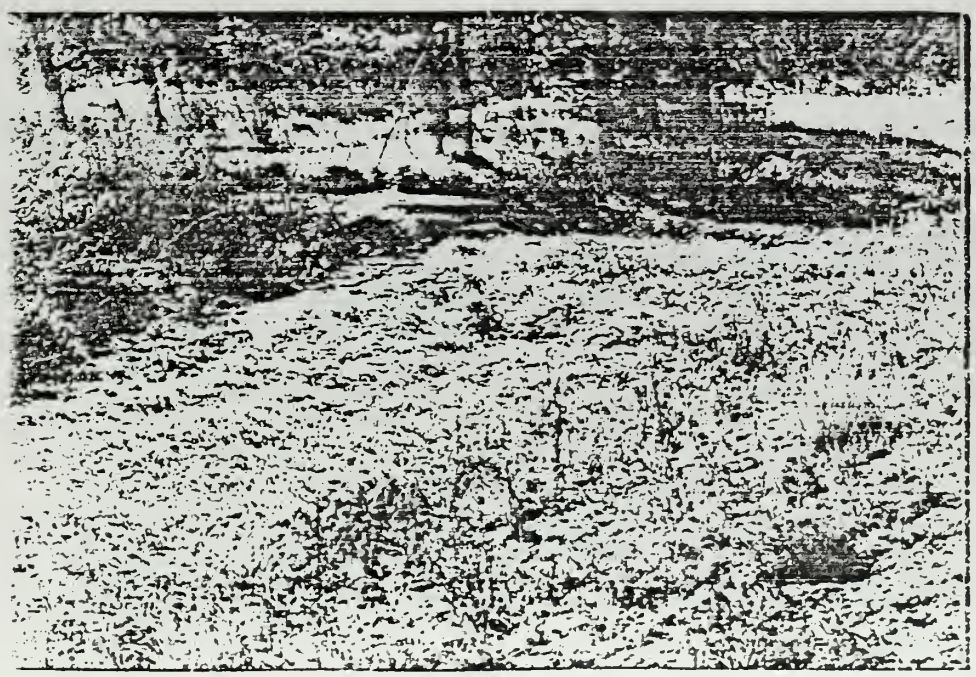
Use by wildlife group is <u>low</u> or incidental in that loss or reduction of the wildlife use would have a negligible effect on the local wildlife population . 1

Use by wildlife group is non-existent at any time during any year. NOTE: Use .3 to signify occasional use 0

Representative Photos of a Type II Wetland



Areas of low elevation that collect and store run-off water. Some possess natural springs.



13. Estimate utilization by fish for spawning, nursery, feeding, or cover.

a.	Montana fishes of special concern	NA
b.	Trout "brookies"	NA
c.	Other Salmonids	NA
d.	Non-Salmonid Game Fish (pike, bass, walleyes)	NA
e.	Non-Game or Rough Fish	NA

Use by fish is <u>significant</u> in that loss or reduction of the fish use would have an adverse effect on the population of the fish in adjacent waters 3

Use by fish is <u>evident</u> or probably and loss or reduction of the fish use may have an adverse effect on the population of fish in the immediate vicinity but the magnitude of the reduction would be insignificant in relation to the total population of fish in adjacent waters 2

Use by fish is <u>low</u> or incidental in that loss or reduction of the fish use would have negligible effect on the population of fish in the immediate vicinity 1

Use by fish never present at any time in the year 0

14. Recreational Use Potential ..... (1) 2 3

15. Summary of Functional Values and Overall Site Ranking

Sediment control rating	1/3
Nutrient retention rating	2/3
Relative flood storage rating	2/3
Relative food chain support	2/3
Wildlife Habitat Values	
Highest (Evaluation Group ____)	2/3
Lowest (Evaluation Group ____)	1/3
Fisheries Habitat Values	
Highest (Evaluation Group ____)	0/3
Lowest (Evaluation Group ____)	0/3

10/24

JTR:Q:ENV:43.mb

MDOH/MDFWP
WETLAND SITE EVALUATION

Date 8/20/90

Project No.

Project Name Rogers Pass to Bonner (Corridor Study)

County Lewis & Clark, Powell, Missoula
Drainage Blackfoot River
R. NA, T. NA, Section NA

Site Location Station (on plan sheet)

Comments (route, milepost, etc.) Type III Wetland

1. Classification (from Novitski, 1979)

Hydrologic Type(s) III - Seasonal water
Area

Vegetative Type(s) (1) A - Herbaceous
Dominant Species (a) Cattail
(b) Sedge
(c) Poa
(2) B - Shrub
(a) Willow
(b) Chokecherry
(c) Woods Rose/Alder
(3)
(a)
(b)
(c)

2. Adjacent Supporting Habitats (Descriptive Summary)
Wetlands (type, vegetation, area, location, condition, wildlife values)
Wetlands are roadside borrow areas that have collected water and sediment, and now give rise to wetland vegetation. They offer good habitat (cover) for wildlife that may frequent the roadside.

Uplands (vegetation type, area, location, condition, land use, erosion potential, wildlife values)
Uplands are rough mountainous terrain and they offer good supporting habitat for these wetlands. There is presence of logging activity in the area which may cause wildlife to value the roadside wetland habitat more. Erosion is virtually non-existent because of the established vegetation.

3. Relative Commonness of Wetland Type in Area
(abundant, common, rare)

4. Degree of Habitat Interspersion
Low = 1 Moderate = 2 High = 3

5. Vegetative Cover Characteristics of Flooded Wetlands.
(not applicable to non-flooded wetlands)

		Rating
a.	Cover occupies more than 95% of wetland	0.5
b.	Cover occupies 76-95% of wetland in a peripheral band	1.5
c.	Cover occupies 76-95% of wetland with scattered open water areas	2.5
d.	Cover occupies 26-75% of wetland occurring in dense patches or diffuse open stands	3.0
e.	Cover occupies 26-75% of wetland in a peripheral band	2.0
f.	Cover occupies 5-25% of wetland occurring in a peripheral band or diffuse open stands	1.0
g.	Cover occupies less than 5% of the wetland	0.5

6. Inundation Frequency

		Rating
a.	Temporary surface water or saturated soil	1
b.	Seasonally or intermittently flooded	2
c.	Semi-permanent or permanently flooded	3

7. Sediment Control/Load Rating Criteria

		Rating
a.	Wetland does not receive detectable amounts of sediment - the watercourse is relatively sediment-free and accumulations are not evident	1
b.	Wetland receives some sediment load but not enough to impact the plants or aquatic organisms using the site. The watercourse has sediment accumulations, but the water is not normally turbid	2

c. Wetland receives heavy sediment loads that has impacted the plant/animal growth/use of the site. The watercourse has large accumulations of sediment and the water is usually turbid 3

8. Water Flow Rating Criteria (check one)

a. Most of the water flows through the wetland in distinct channels or watercourses or has little flow of surface water during the year ..... ____

b. Channels of watercourses present, but a significant portion of water is sheet flow through the wetland X

c. Water flows across wetland uniformly and is not contained in channels or watercourses ____

9. Nutrient Retention Capabilities (circle one ranking)

a. Non-contiguous wetland with little accumulation of organic matter 1

b. Non-contiguous wetland with organic material accumulation 2

c. Contiguous wetland with little accumulation of organic matter 2.5

d. Contiguous wetland with organic material accumulation ..... (3)

10. Relative Flood Storage Potential

a. Section 8, line a; Section 6, line a .... (1)

b. Section 8, line b; Section 6, line b 2

c. Section 8, line c; Section 6, line c 3

11. Relative Food Chain Support Potential (Based on percent vegetative cover and estimated relative standing crop).

a. Low (vegetative cover less than 5%; non-contiguous; no accumulation of organic matter) 1

b. Moderate (vegetative cover 6-25%; contiguous or non-contiguous to other supporting habitats; some accumulation of organic material) 2

c. High (vegetative cover 26-100%; contiguous to other supporting habitats, some accumulation of organic material) ..... (3)

12. Wildlife Habitat Values (Overall) Rating (0-3)
(Based on cover, diversity, supporting habitats, and productivity)

Evaluation Group or Species

a.	Waterfowl	1
b.	Upland Game Birds	3
c.	Songbirds	2
d.	Raptors and Others	1
e.	Furbearers	1
f.	Non-furbearing small mammals	3
g.	Large Ungulates (elk, moose, deer)	3
h.	Large Carnivores (bear, cat)	1
i.	Threatened or Endangered Species	1

Evaluate utilization by waterfowl/wildlife of wetland site for nesting, rearing young, feeding or protective cover based upon the following criteria (high, medium, low).

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Use by wildlife group is <u>low</u> or incidental in that loss or reduction of the wildlife use would have a negligible effect on the local wildlife population . 1

Use by wildlife group is non-existent at any time during any year. NOTE: Use .3 to signify occasional use 0

13. Estimate utilization by fish for spawning, nursery, feeding, or cover.

a.	Montana fishes of special concern	NA
b.	Trout "brookies"	NA
c.	Other Salmonids	NA
d.	Non-Salmonid Game Fish (pike, bass, walleyes)	NA
e.	Non-Game or Rough Fish	NA

Use by fish is significant in that loss or reduction of the fish use would have an adverse effect on the population of the fish in adjacent waters 3

Use by fish is evident or probably and loss or reduction of the fish use may have an adverse effect on the population of fish in the immediate vicinity but the magnitude of the reduction would be insignificant in relation to the total population of fish in adjacent waters 2

Use by fish is low or incidental in that loss or reduction of the fish use would have negligible effect on the population of fish in the immediate vicinity 1

Use by fish never present at any time in the year 0

14. Recreational Use Potential ..... (1) 2 3

15. Summary of Functional Values and Overall Site Ranking

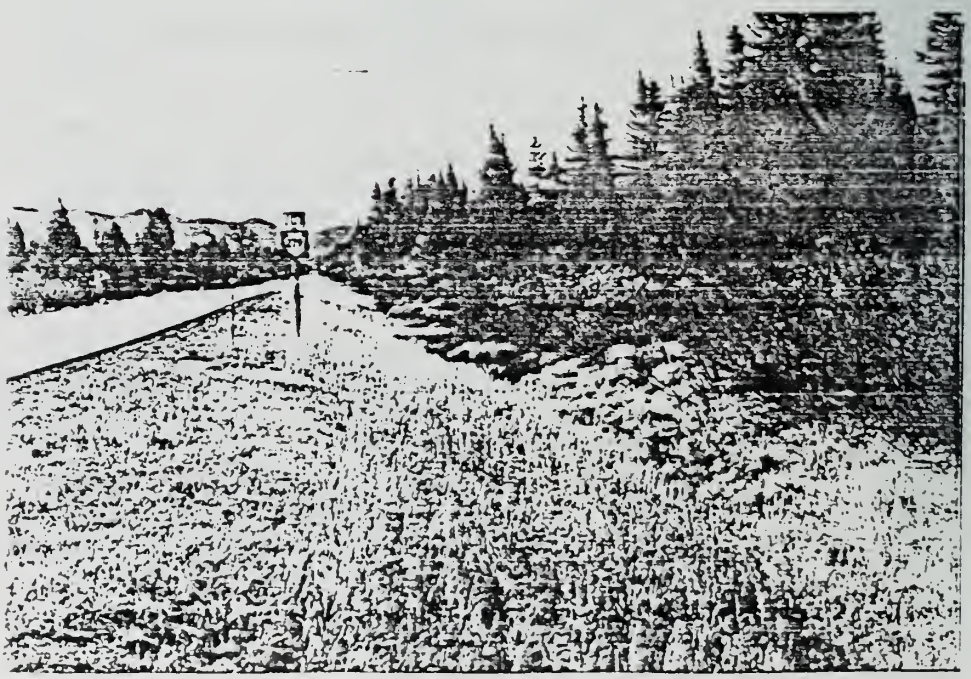
Sediment control rating	2/3
Nutrient retention rating	2/3
Relative flood storage rating	2/3
Relative food chain support	2/3
Wildlife Habitat Values	
Highest (Evaluation Group ____)	3/3
Lowest (Evaluation Group ____)	1/3
Fisheries Habitat Values	
Highest (Evaluation Group ____)	0/3
Lowest (Evaluation Group ____)	0/3

12/24

JTR:Q:ENV:44.mb

Representative Photos of a Type III Wetland

Borrow area wetlands created by insufficient drainage and good water retention ability.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
215 NORTH 17TH STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-4978

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

April 16, 1991

Date Recd. Preconst. 4/17/91

Act	Info	MAIL ROUTE	Attach	Initial
	✓	30 Preconst Engr		
	✓	30 Assistant		
		30 Office Mgr		
	✓	32 Road Design		
	✓	33 Environment		
	✓	34 Hydraulics		
		35 Survey & Mapping		
		36 Traffic		
	✓	39 Consultant		
	✓	[illegible]		
	✓	[illegible]		
	✓	[illegible]		

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
c/o DNRC/CDD
1520 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-2301
(406)444-6670

David Johnson
Montana Department of Highways
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Reference is made to the wetland impacts as a result of highway improvements on Montana Highway 200 between Rogers Pass and Bonner, Montana.

From the information submitted, it appears you have considered wetland avoidance and impact minimization whenever possible. Therefore, the funding for the creation of 25 acres of wetlands in the jointly developed Blackfoot Waterfowl Production Area east of Ovando, Montana appears to more than adequately replace the 16.11 wetland acres estimated to be lost due to road construction in that corridor.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Robert E. McInerney

Robert E. McInerney
Regulatory Branch
Operations Division

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GARNET RESOURCE AREA
3255 FORT MISSOULA ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801-7293

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

COPY

IN REPLY REFER TO:

RECEIVED

APR 21 1992

2800

cc. E. Stettler
D. Johnson

APR 20 1992

Edrie L. Vinson, Chief
MDT Environmental & Hazardous Waste Bureau
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena MT 59620

Dear Ms. Vinson:

This is in response to your March 18, 1992 letter to our Billings office regarding information for your Supplemental C.E. for Project F 24 - 2(9)56, Helmville Junction - East.

The responses below correspond to the items listed in your letter on pages three and four:

1. We have already evaluated this project as it relates to BLM land. We have no further comments, questions, or concerns.

2. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has no actions planned or underway in the vicinity that could affect, or be affected by, the proposed action. We know of no actions by others that pose similar effects.

3. BLMs property adjacent to, or within the proposed project, could be classified as a Section 4(f) site, under criteria d.

4. This proposed action will not have any effect on BLM transportation plans.

5. Designated contact for this proposed project is:

Lex McCullough
Bureau of Land Management
3255 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59801

(406) 329-3914

Sincerely,

W. DeLon Potter
Acting Area Manager

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GARNET RESOURCE AREA
3255 FORT MISSOULA ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801-7293

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
MASTER FILE
COPY
MTM-80196

RECEIVED
SEP 30 1992
ENVIRONMENTAL BUR.

SEP 29 1992

Edrie L. Vinson, Chief
MDT Environmental & Hazardous Waste Bureau
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mrs. Vinson:

Based on your letter of September 23, 1992, and on a telephone conversation with Art Jacobsen, we would like to clarify our response of April 20, 1992, to item #3 in reference to F 24 - 2(5)56, Helmville Junction - East, (P.M.S. C#0921).

Although the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land adjoining the above referenced highway project is available for what we consider multiple use, we have no areas on or adjacent to the proposed project that are specifically designated for recreational or waterfowl/wildlife management. Therefore, the adjacent BLM lands would not be classified as "Section 4(f) Lands".

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Brown
Acting Area Manager

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GARNET RESOURCE AREA
3255 FORT MISSOULA ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801-7293

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MTM 80196

c #0921

NOV 20 1992

NOV 23 1992

Edrie L. Vinson, Chief
MDT - Environmental & Hazardous Waste Bureau
2701 Prospect Avenue
Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Ms. Vinson:

We received the rough draft copy of the environmental document for the Helmville Junction-East project F 24 - 2(5)56. Thank you for the opportunity for review. We have no comments or revisions.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas J. Brown
Acting Area Manager

F 24-2(5)56
Helmville Jct-E.
(C#0921)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION

STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

CAPITOL STATION

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 542-4200

Southwestern Land Office:
1401 27th Avenue
Missoula, MT 59801

RECEIVED
OCT 5 1992
ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU

MASTER FILE COPY

October 2, 1992

Edrie L. Vinson, Chief
MDT - Environmental and Hazardous Waste Bureau
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-9726

Dear Edrie:

I received your request for information associated with the Helmville Junction - East Highway project on US 200 (F 24 - 2(5)56).

First, I must point out that Department of State Lands (DSL) does not claim jurisdiction on the Blackfoot River under the Montana Stream Access Law. This body of law (23-2-301 through 23-2-322) regulates recreational use of rivers and streams by the public and is administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. The law applies to all rivers and streams capable of recreational use regardless of streambed ownership, and pertains to property below the ordinary high water mark.

DSL is involved in this project because the State of Montana claims ownership of the land between the low water marks under the navigable waters of the State. The basis of this claim is rooted in the Equal Footing Doctrine of 1844, MCA 70-16-201, MCA 70-1-202, MCA 77-1-102 and MCA 70-18-203. These lands are managed by the Department of State Lands. The goal in management is to provide for the beneficial use of the lands for public and private purposes in a manner which will provide revenues without harming the long term capability of the land or restricting the original commercial navigability. Based upon historical documentation, the Blackfoot River is commercially navigable from Lincoln, Montana to its confluence with the Clark Fork River. Therefore, the State claims ownership of the Blackfoot River between these two points.

Regarding your specific questions:

1. The Stream Access Law applies to the segment of river you have highlighted. I have enclosed a flier from Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and a copy of the law for your information. For further information, I suggest you contact DFW&P.

2. Since the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is the State agency which administers public recreation, they would be better suited to answer questions regarding the significance of these areas as recreational resources.

From DSL's viewpoint, your proposal (highlighted tracts) does not constitute a significant impact to our interests. This judgement is based upon two criteria: first, the extent of the area is very limited (The disturbed area is a few hundred square feet in a river bottom comprising a number of square miles.) and secondly, the type of disturbance should not markedly impair beneficial use, long term productivity, or restrict navigability.

Attached is an Environmental Action Checklist we completed on your request.

Sincerely,

ROBERT H. STORER
Forest and Lands Program Manager
Southwestern Land Office

kjc

Enclosures

cf: Blackfoot River File

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Helena National Forest
2880 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59601

RECEIVED
DEC - 9 1992
ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU

Reply to: 2730

Date: December 7, 1992

Subject: F 24 -2(5)56
Helmville Junction - East
(P.M.S. C#0921)
Your ref: 11/17/92

Montana Department of Transportation
Attn: Edrie L. Vinson, Chief
Environmental & Hazardous Waste Bureau
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-9726

Dear Ms. Vinson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft copy of the environmental document for the above-referenced project. We have two concerns regarding the document.

In our April 17, 1992, letter (copy enclosed) to you, we listed cultural resources and visuals as concerns in section 29, T. 14 N., R. 9 W. There is a known cultural resource site in section 29 located north of the highway. We need to be assured that the site is not disturbed by your proposed project. This was not addressed in your NEPA document nor were the visual concerns regarding Highway 200 that were listed in the April 17 letter.

Please work with Mark Varhus of this office to resolve these issues. Once they are resolved, we need to be kept informed of final NEPA document signing date and the offical title and name of the signing officer so that we can process our paperwork in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

ERNEST R. NUNN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: John Horton - Right-of-Way Bureau, 2701 Prospect Ave., Helena, MT
Bruce Allen - RO

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Helena National Forest
301 S. Park, Drawer 10014
Helena, MT 59626

MASTER FILE COPY

RECEIVED
APR 21 1992
ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU

Reply to: 7700

Date: April 20, 1992

cc: Stettle
D. Johnson

Montana Department of Highways
Environmental and Hazardous Waste Bureau
Attn: Edrie Vinson, Chief
2701 Prospect Ave.
Helena, Montana 59620

Subject: F 24-2(5)56
Helmville Junction-East
(P.M.S. C# 0921)

Dear Edrie:

This letter is in response to your March 19, 1992 letter concerning the above mentioned project. We were asked to "furnish any information concerning any Resource Management areas or sites that adjoin, or are near this proposed project. These may include (but are not limited to) historic sites, wildlife or waterfowl (including Federally-listed Threatened/Endangered Species) habitat, or timber harvesting areas." We were also asked to state whether any National Forest lands adjoining the present and/or proposed route may be classified as Section 4(f) Lands as defined by the 1966 U.S. Department of Transportation Act(49 U.S.C. 303). This project crosses National Forest land in Section 24, T 14 N, R 10 W, and in Section 29, T14 N, R 9 W.

SEC 24, T 14 N, R 10 W.

Section 24 is in Management Area designated as T-4 ground by the Helena National Forest Plan. T-4 ground is described as follows: The area is productive timber lands near major travel routes, use areas, and water bodies. Timber management activities will be scheduled, provided a partial retention or retention VQO (visual quality objective) is achieved.[Ref. Forest Landscape Management Book, Vol. 2 (Ag. Hdbk. No. 462)]. Elk winter and summer habitat will be maintained, and livestock grazing will remain at 1983 levels. Dispersed recreation could be both motorized and non-motorized.

SEC 29, T 14 N, R 9 W

Section 29 is in Management Area designated as T-2 ground by the Helena National Forest Plan. T-2 ground is described as follows: The area below 6000 feet, is both elk winter range and productive forest land. Timber management activities will be scheduled, provided adequate thermal and hiding cover are maintained. Livestock grazing will continue at 1983 levels and dispersed recreation will be both motorized and nonmotorized.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife concerns of the proposed project involve two issues: (1) winter and summer use by bald eagles, and (2) habitat utilization of white tailed deer (all season but particularly in the winter).

(1) Bald Eagles
Large trees are important for bald eagles, and the removal of the large trees should be minimized. There are no known nesting sites on the Right of Way through National Forest Lands for this project. The closest known bald eagle nest is located on private land in NW 1/4 NW 1/4 of Sec 26, T 14 N, R 9 W.

(2) White Tailed Deer
There are many white tailed deer that cross the highway in this area. It is recommended that the signing be improved to notify users of the heavy deer crossing areas. Some clearing of the understory may help motorists see deer earlier. Seeding of the disturbed areas should be done with grasses/forbes that deer do not like to eat to prevent deer from grazing in the area.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

There is a known Cultural Resource Area located in Sec 29 north of the highway. The Cultural Resource is related to historic mining. It is not known at this time if this resource is within the Highway ROW. Further field investigation will have to be done to determine the exact location of site. There are no known cultural resources in Section 24.

VISUAL QUALITY

The visual quality objective for the foreground viewing zone of Highway 200 is retention (management activities will not be visually evident). Where new cutbanks will be created they should be rounded (contoured) to meet the natural slope. Where new cut banks will be minimal and trees will be removed, an irregular clearing limit will help reduce the contrast of an unnatural forest edge. Where possible some select large ponderosa pines should be preserved within the clearing limits.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Noxious weeds are a problem in this area and efforts should be made to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

SECTION 4(f) LANDS

There are no "Section 4(f) Lands" adjoining this project.

For further information or assistance from the Forest level on this project, please contact Mark Varhus, Development Engineer.

James E. Guest

ERNEST R. NUNN
Forest Supervisor

cc: Lincoln District Ranger
Mark Varhus

Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena,MT 59620-9726
Stan Stephens, Governor

MASTER FILE COPY

December 17, 1992

Ernest R. Nunn, Forest Supervisor
Helena National Forest
U.S.D.A. - Forest Service
2330 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59601

Subject: F 24 - 2(5)56
Helmville Junction - East
(P.M.S. C#0921)

HNF Ref.: 2730 (Mark Varhus)

Regarding the Forest Service's concerns about the ROUGH DRAFT Supplemental Categorical Exclusion distributed for review on November 17th:

1) Art Jacobsen called Mark Varhus on December 15th, and discussed the Cultural Resource, and Visual items in the April 17th letter from the HNF.

2) The Cultural Resource site has been identified as part of the Big Blackfoot Mine, 24LC828, which was determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places by SHPO on December 22, 1986 as part of the F 24-3(13)68, Lincoln - East & West **Cultural Resources Survey Report.** This has been verified through this Bureau's historian, Jon Axline, in a telephone conversation with Mark Varhus on December 17th.

3) The tops of cut slopes are "rounded" as part of MDT's standard construction practices, originating with Interstate construction over twenty years ago. This has been extended to all highway construction since 1987, and a copy of the standard drawing for same is attached.

4) The Great Falls District Engineer has been informed of the irregular clearing limit request. Normally, this type of item is presented at a Preconstruction Conference held between MDT, the FHWA, and the prime contractor when the construction contract has been awarded. Since the HNF has not been officially part of these conferences, this item will be included in the FINAL Supplemental Categorical Exclusion letter to alert all concerned.

FINAL Supplemental Categorical Exclusion (#4, conclusion:)

5) The other items discussed in the April 17th letter (HNF Reference #7700) will be included in the FINAL version of the Supplemental Categorical Exclusion. These were inadvertently left-out of the ROUGH DRAFT document.

This Bureau regards these issues of the December 7th letter (HNF Reference #2730) as being resolved. The HNF's expedited response received prior to December 18th is appreciated. This Bureau will forward a copy of the FINAL document with all attachments to the HNF upon receipt of the approved Supplemental Categorical Exclusion from the FHWA.

Please call Art Jacobsen, phone #444-7227, in this office's Environmental Engineering Section if there are any questions.

Edrie Vinson

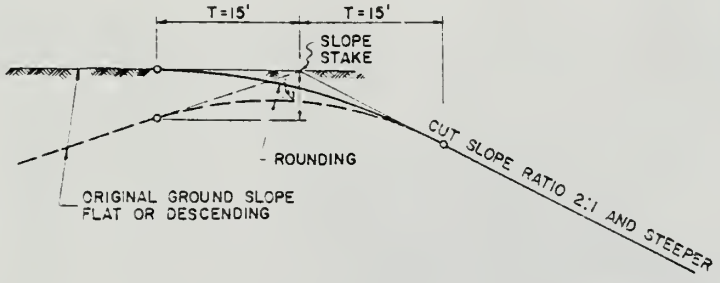
Edrie L. Vinson, Chief
MDT - Environmental & Hazardous Waste Bureau

ELV:ASJ:0921-HNF.RSP

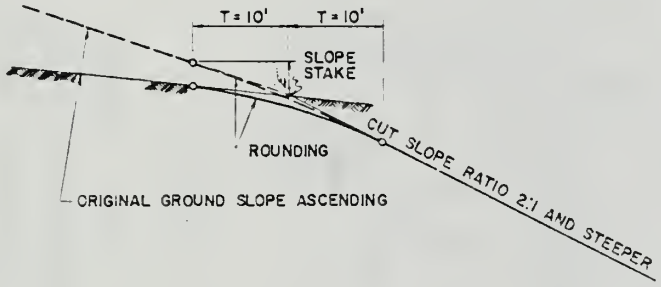
Attachments

CC: Eugene W. Stettler, P.E. - MDT Great Falls District (#3) Engineer, with attachments
Gordon L. Larson, P.E., Assistant Administrator-MDT Highways Division, with attachments
John J. Maykuth, P.E. - MDT Construction Engineer, with attachments
James R. Beck, Chief Counsel - MDT Legal Services Division, w/attach.
Edrie L. Vinson, Chief - MDT Environmental & Hazardous Waste Bureau
Dale W. Paulson, Environmental Coordinator - FHWA Montana Division, with attachments

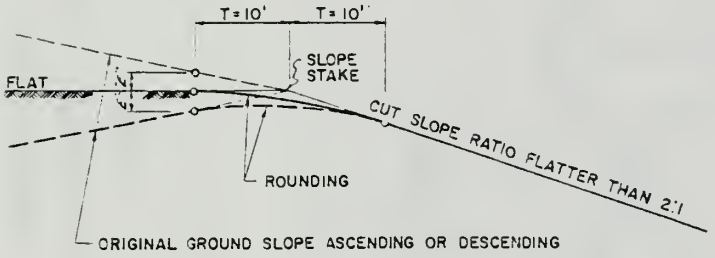
MASTER FILE COPY



M2-C SLOPES 2:1 & STEEPER (T=15')						
VERT. DIST. "E" (FT.)	DESCENDING GROUND-CUTS M2=M/2 (FT.)					
	3/4:1	1:1	1 1/4:1	1 1/2:1	1 3/4:1	2:1
FLAT	5.0	3.8	3.0	2.5	2.2	1.9
2.0	5.5	4.3	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.4
4.0	6.0	4.8	4.0	3.5	3.2	2.9
6.0	6.5	5.3	4.5	4.0	3.7	3.4
8.0	7.0	5.8	5.0	4.5	4.2	3.9
10.0	7.5	6.3	5.5	5.0	4.7	4.4
12.0	8.0	6.8	6.0	5.5	5.2	4.9
14.0	8.5	7.3	6.5	6.0	5.7	5.4
16.0	9.0	7.8	7.0	6.5	6.2	5.9

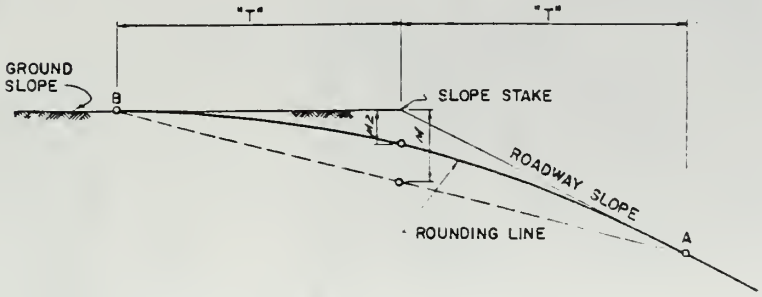


M2-C SLOPES 2:1 & STEEPER (T=10')						
VERT. DIST. "E" (FT.)	ASCENDING GROUND-CUTS M2=M/2 (FT.)					
	3/4:1	1:1	1 1/4:1	1 1/2:1	1 3/4:1	2:1
1.0	3.4	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.3
2.0	2.9	2.0	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.8
4.0	2.4	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3
6.0	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0
8.0	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.0		
10.0	0.9	0.0				
12.0	0.4					
14.0	0.0					



M2 FOR CUT SLOPES FLATTER THAN 2:1 (T=10')						
VERT. DIST. "E" (FT.)	DESCENDING GROUND-CUTS M2=M/2 (FT.)					
	2 1/2:1	3:1	3 1/2:1	4:1	5:1	6:1
FLAT	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
1.0	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7
2.0	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9
3.0	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2
4.0	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4
5.0	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7
6.0	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9
7.0	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2
8.0	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4
9.0	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7
10.0	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9

VERTICAL OFFSETS FROM ROADWAY AND GROUND SLOPES TO ROUNDING LINES FOR CUTS



M2 FOR CUT SLOPES FLATTER THAN 2:1 (T=10')						
VERT. DIST. "E" (FT.)	ASCENDING GROUND-CUTS M2=M/2 (FT.)					
	2 1/2:1	3:1	3 1/2:1	4:1	5:1	6:1
FLAT	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2
2.0	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
3.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0		
4.0	0.0					
5.0						
6.0						
7.0						
8.0						
9.0						
10.0						

NOTE: VERTICAL OFFSETS "M_2" SHALL BE $M/2$

STANDARD DRAWING

REFERENCE STANDARD SPEC. SECTION 11

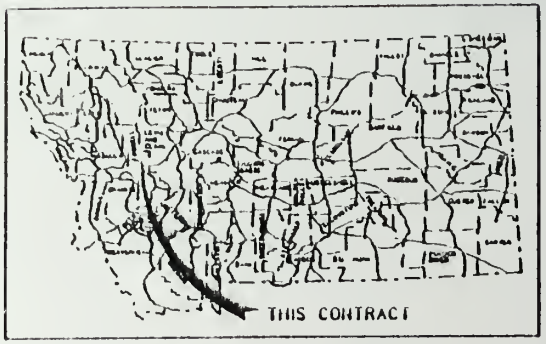
DWG. NO. 100

SLOPE ROUNDING

EFFECTIVE 3/1/72

ADMINISTRATOR-ENGINEERING DIVISION

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. F 24-2(5)56

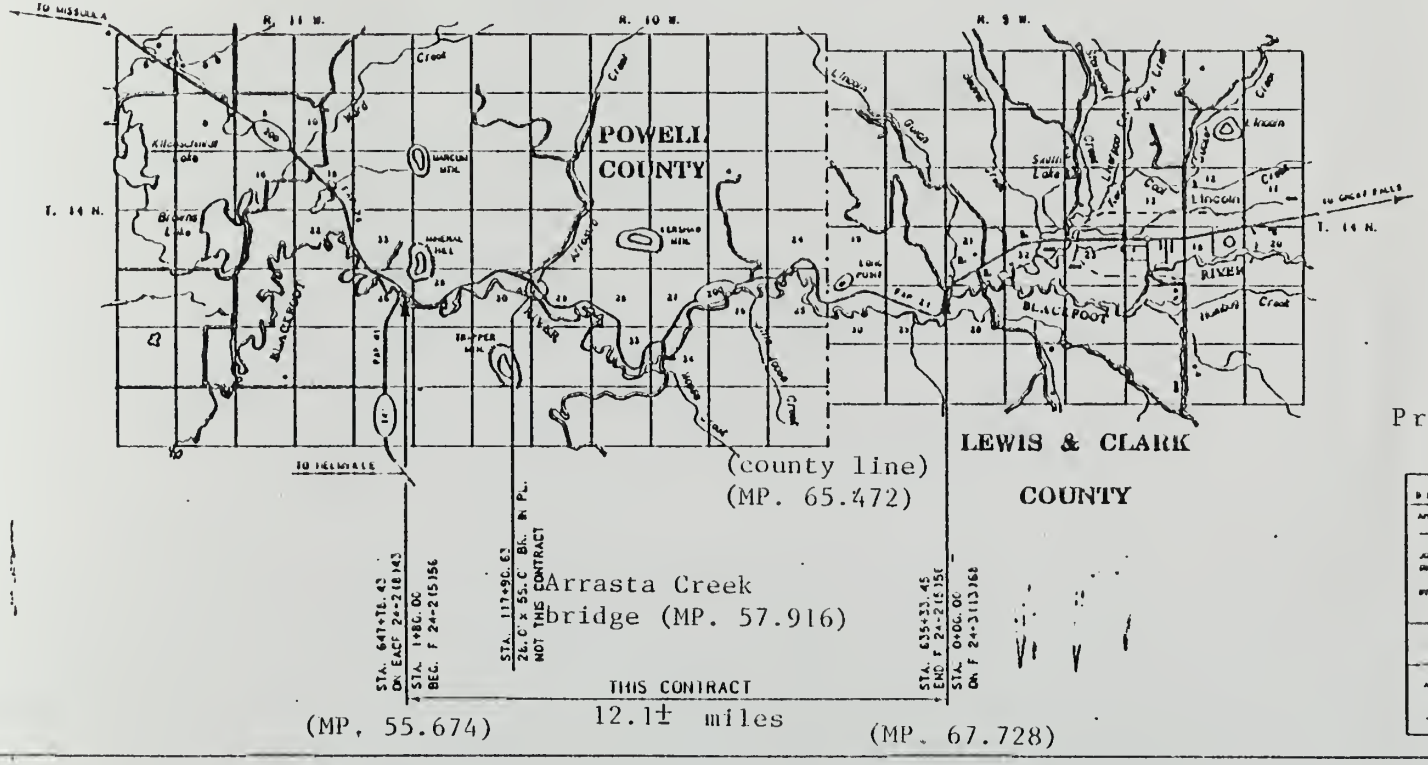
GRADE, GRAVEL, PL. MIX SURF., WIDEN & OVERLAY

HELMVILLE JUNCTION EAST

POWELL COUNTY - LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY

LENGTH 12.0 MILES

(P.M.S. C#0921)



Project Location Map

RELATED PROJECTS

F24-3(13)168

ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

ADDENDUM NUMBERS	

DESIGN DATA

A.D.T. - [illegible]

A.D.T. - [illegible]

D.H.V. - [illegible]

D. - [illegible]

T. - [illegible]

V. - [illegible]

ALL TRUCKS - [illegible]

LETTING DATE -

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

APPROVED

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

BY

FINANCE AND RESEARCH ENGINEER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

APPROVED

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR DATE